

Bluff Town Council Special Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2023
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.
190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m.
Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted in writing to Ann Leppanen
(ann@townofbluff.org) at least 4 days before the meeting. Agendas and minutes are
posted at:

townofbluff.org and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website.
To view the livestream, or watch past recordings, please visit our YouTube
channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTqBxSP-Erhxq6muVMX6vdw>.

This meeting was held electronically

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray
Erin Nelson Town Manager

1. Discussion and Vote on the Acton Petition to Disconnect from the Town of Bluff (All)

Leppanen noted that Council members had been given a draft copy of draft resolution 73. She asked Council members to state their position on the 9000+ acre disconnect request.

Sayers – He said Resolution 73 closely follows his thinking. At the public hearing the public felt strongly to deny the request to disconnect. I think primary for me is protecting the water. That's our foremost task and the fact that we don't know anything about why this petition has been submitted doesn't give me any confidence, We are reasonable to work with and we were given no reason for their request to disconnect. In favor of denying the disconnect.

Murray – The town followed all constitutional requirements in the incorporation process. The public came together and shared what they wanted the town to be and we listened and planned. To have this group of folks come in and unceremoniously just say we're going to divide your town and take 40 percent of it, is wrong. This is wrong, it is not justice for the Town of Bluff. Justice is just behavior and treatment and we have not received that. In favor of denying the disconnect.

Hook – We need to honor the boundaries we set up. The area they are asking for could be developed by us in the future. Moab did not choose large enough boundaries when they incorporated and that has caused problems. SITLA should not be able to take out

land. The arguments that lead to denying the smaller disconnect are the same as this large disconnect. In favor of denying the disconnect.

Sosa – Sayers and I attended a San Juan Commission meeting where a Commissioner asked Brian Torgerson why SITLA wanted to disconnect. His reply was, the County would be easier to work with than the town. It is not right that a government agency can remove property from a town. If it happens here it can happen in any town or city. In favor of denying the disconnect.

Leppanen – This resolution contains the same arguments used in the Judy Lyman disconnect request. The Acton's are related to Judy Lyman and clearly knew the town is incorporated when they took position. This petition is for about 40% of the town. We followed all procedure including all land owners. They had an opportunity to get out and did not take it. The Lt. Governor approved our mapping. Bluff voters by about 3 to 1 approved the map and incorporation. Neither r. Baird or SITLA had a conversation with us before serving the petition. The BLM was not aware of this petition and are taking no action. St. Christopher's laid out their connection and importance to the town and vice versa.

Murray noted he thought the town is interested in a solar field in the right place on the Bench.

Sayers motioned to deny the disconnection petition of 9,414 acres from the Acton's and adopt Resolution 73 denying the disconnect action, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Murray, Hook and Sayers voted in favor of denying the disconnect. Leppanen will sign the resolution and post it on the town website.

2. Other

None

Murray motioned to close the meeting at 6:16 p.m., Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Murray, Hook and Sayers voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

For requests to receive emails/meeting invitations, email linda@townofbluff.org